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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A network arrangement comprising nodes and optical links interconnecting the nodes, characterized in that at least one node comprises:
 - a transceiver pool that includes a plurality of at least two transceivers with corresponding customer-side (CS) connection points and at least two optical director-side (ODS) connection points that are each configured to output an optical signal at a particular wavelength that is specified by an electrical control signal applied to said transceiver pool; and
 - an optical director element having bi-directional local ports, each connected to a different one of said ODS connection points, and at least two other ports, with said director element configured to add a signal applied to one of said local ports by a connected ODS connection point, which is at said particular wavelength, to a specific one of the other ports, via all optical paths, pursuant to a control signal applied to the optical director element, without affecting signals of other wavelengths that are applied by the optical director element to said specific one of the other ports.
2. **(Original)** The network of claim 1 where each of said links interconnects a pair of nodes and comprise a series connection of at least one optical cable that contains at least one optical fiber.
3. **(Previously Presented)** The network of claim 1 where said control signal that affects the transceiver pool and said control signal that affects the optical director element are unrelated to any network fault indication.
4. **(Original)** The network of claim 1 where the number of said CS connection points is equal to number of said ODS connection points.
5. **(Currently Amended)** The network of claim 1 where each transceiver in said transceiver pool is configured to deliver to said ODS connection points an optical signal that is suitable for long-reach optical transmission.

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6. **(Original)** The network of claim 1 where each transceiver in said transceiver pool is connected to one of said CS connection points, and to one of said ODS connection points.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The network of claim 1 further comprising a service layer device that is interposed between customer signals and the CS connection points.

8. **(Original)** The network of claim 1 where said transceiver pool is part of a service layer device.

9. **(Original)** The network of claim 8 where said service layer device performs a routing, or a multiplexing function.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The transceiver pool of claim 1 where a transceiver element in said pool is configured to transfer information contained in a signal at a CS connection point to a signal of a particular wavelength at an ODS connection point.

11. **(Original)** The transceiver element of claim 10 where the signal at its associated CS connection point is electrical.

12. **(Original)** The transceiver element of claim 10 where the signal at its associated CS connection point is optical.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The network of claim 1 where a transceiver element in said pool is configured to transfer information to a CS connection point that is contained in a signal of a particular wavelength appearing at one of said local ports.

14. **(Original)** The transceiver of claim 13 where the signal at the CS connection point is electrical.

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15. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 1 where said optical director comprises

a switch connected to said local ports; and

an optical routing element connected to said switch and to said other ports.

16. (Original) The network of claim 1 further comprising a management network for communicating said control signals.

17. (Original) The network of claim 16 where the management network is distinct from said network.

18. (Original) The network of claim 1 further including in-band control signals that flow through said network to provision nodes of said network.

19. (Original) The network of claim 1 further including out-of-band control signals that flow through said network to provision nodes of said network.

20. (Original) The network of claim 1 where said transceiver pool is embedded in said optical director.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for provisioning capacity in a network where nodes are interconnected with optical links comprising the steps of:

at a first node of said nodes

receiving control signals;

responsive to said control signals, tuning a first transceiver pool that is interposed between at least one customer (CS) side port and N optical director side (ODS) ports, where N is an integer, to deliver an information-bearing signal to one of said ODS ports, which information-bearing signal is at a wavelength that is dictated by said control signals and carries information that is substantially the same as information provided to said transceiver pool by said CS port, and to accept an information-bearing signal from said ODS port for delivery to said CS port; and

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responsive to said control signals, directing a first optical director having at least $N+2$ ports, with N ports connected to said N ODS ports of said first transceiver pool and remaining ports being coupled to selected ones of said optical links (long-reach ports), to route signals between said ODS port and a specific one of said first optical director.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 where said signal delivered by said transceiver pool is configured for long-reach transmission.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 where said directing of routing to specific ports of said optical director is limited to routing to said long-reach ports.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 where said control signals are unrelated to a failure indication.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of:
at another node of said network,
receiving control signals;
responsive to said control signals, directing a second optical director that has M ODS connection points and at least 2 ports, where M is a non-zero integer, to route signals arriving at one of said ports to one of said M ODS connection points, as specified by said control signals; and
responsive to said control signals, tuning a second transceiver pool to accept an information-bearing signal at one of said M ODS connection points for delivery to one of a plurality of CS connection points associated with said second transceiver pool.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a network that includes nodes, and links that interconnect the nodes, where a first node of the nodes executes a process comprising the steps of:

provisioning a tunable transceiver of said first node to communicate substantially all of the information of an applied customer signal to a first bi-directional local

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connection point that is coupled to a first controllable optical director of said first node, which information is modulated onto a wavelength specified by a control signal applied to said tunable transceiver, which control signal is other than indicative of a failure condition; and

provisioning said first controllable optical director to transfer signals at said first local connection point that have said specified wavelength to a port of said first controllable optical director that is specified by a control signal applied to said first optical director, said transfer being via essentially all-optical communication paths within said first controllable optical director.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 where the communication paths of the optical director are all-optical.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26 where the port selected for said controllable optical director is connected to a link that is coupled to a port of a second node of said nodes, where said second node executes a process comprising the steps of:

provisioning a second controllable optical director to transfer signals that appear at said port of said second node and have said wavelength to a local connection point of said second node, said transfer being effected via essentially all-optical paths in said second controllable director; and

provisioning a tunable transceiver of said second node to form an output signal from a signal that appears at said local connection point of said second node and at said wavelength.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 where the second controllable optical director transfers signals via an all-optical path.

30. (Original) The method of claim 26 where the control signals are applied to said first node in response to a request for provisioning.

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31. (Original) The method of claim 30 where the request is initiated by an element of the node.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30 where the request is initiated by a customer.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30 where the request arrives from another node.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30 where the request arrives from an administrator that has direct control over provisioning of the node.

35. (Original) The method of claim 30 where the request arrives from an entity that has management control over the network.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35 where the request arrives from said entity pursuant to a process that rearranges provisioning in said network.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35 where the rearranging of provisioning is in response to a request by a customer to provide a modified capacity allocation.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35 where the rearranging of provisioning is in response to changes in network load conditions.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38 where the changes in network load conditions arise from network faults.

40. (Original) The method of claim 26 where the control signals are applied in response to a fault condition detected in the network.

41-45. (Canceled).

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46. (New) A network arrangement comprising nodes and optical links interconnecting the nodes, characterized in that at least one of the nodes comprises:
a transceiver pool that includes at least two transceivers, each having a customer-side (CS) connection point and an optical director-side (ODS) connection point, each of the transceivers configured to output at its ODS connection point an optical signal at a wavelength that is specified by an electrical control signal applied to said transceiver, and to accept an optical signal at its ODS connection point at a specified wavelength that is specified by said electrical control signal; and

an optical director element, responsive to electrical control signals, having a plurality of bi-directional local ports, corresponding in number to the number of said ODS connection points of said transceiver pool, each of the local ports being connected to an ODS connection point, and also having a plurality of bi-directional long-reach ports, where said optical director element is configured to output signals onto said long-reach ports that are suitable for long-reach optical transmission, and said control signals control routing of signals entering and leaving said long-reach ports and said local ports.

47. (New) The arrangement of claim 46 where
said optical signal outputted by a transceiver of said transceiver pool at its ODS connection point carries information that is provided by a signal applied to said transceiver at its CS connection point, and

information that is contained in said optical signal that it accepted at said transceiver's ODS connection point is outputted in a signal delivered by said transceiver's CS connection point.